

Foot and Mouth Disease Prevention Information For Passengers Traveling To The United States From FMD Infected Regions of the World

In response to the increasing number of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks worldwide, travelers to the United States from infected regions need to take steps to help prevent the accidental introduction of the disease into this country.

FMD is not considered a human health risk but humans can carry the virus on their clothing, shoes, body (particularly the throat and nasal passages) and personal items. The disease is extremely contagious and spreads easily among cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and deer. Introduction of FMD into this country would be disastrous to the American livestock industry and wildlife community. For this reason all visits to farms or other livestock facilities in FMD infected areas and all food items and other materials of plant or animal origin in the traveler's possession must be reported on the U.S. Customs Declaration Form upon entering the country.

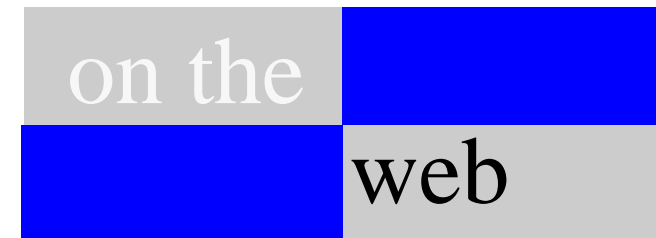
The following preventive measures should be taken by travelers to the United States from FMD infected countries:

1. Avoid farms, sale barns, stockyards, animal laboratories, packing houses, zoos, fairs or other animal facilities for 5 days prior to travel.
2. Before travel to the United States, launder or dry clean all clothing and outerwear.
 All dirt and soil should be removed from shoes by thorough cleaning prior to wiping with cloth dampened with a bleach solution. (5 tablespoons of household bleach in 1 gallon of water). Luggage and personal items including watches, cameras, laptops, CD players and cell phones),

if soiled, should be wiped with a cloth dampened with a bleach solution.

3. Avoid contact with livestock or wildlife for 5 days after arrival in the United States. Extra precautionary measures should be taken by people traveling from farms in infected locales to visit or work on farms in the United States. It is advisable that employers or sponsors provide arriving travelers with a clean set of clothing that can be worn after the visitor showers and shampoos thoroughly. Visitor's traveling clothes should be laundered or dry cleaned immediately. Off-farm activities should be scheduled for the visitor's first 5 days in-country and contact with livestock or wildlife should be strictly avoided

**More information about FMD is available at
www.ag.state.ut.us**



Governor
 Leavitt
 Commissioner of Agriculture and Food

Michael O.
 Cary G.

Utah Begins Statewide Efforts to Keep Foot and Mouth Disease Out of the United States

Calling on the resources of multiple state and federal agencies, the Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson has begun a comprehensive effort to keep Foot and Mouth Disease out of Utah. While traditional procedures aimed at keeping the livestock disease out of the state have been in place for years, the department is "tightening the preventative filter" in the wake of the worldwide spread of FMD.

"Utah and the United States cannot afford to let down their guard one day when it comes to this economically devastating disease," said Commissioner Peterson. "That is why 'an ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure' is our rallying cry this year," he added.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is meeting with U.S. Department of Agriculture deputy administrators for veterinary services and plant protection and quarantine as well as Utah agency heads from transportation, health, environmental quality, and others. The agencies will work to coordinate efforts on a broad front to keep the disease out of the state.

Commissioner Peterson says that the potential hardships that would be created by an FMD outbreak in the US will far outweigh the extra steps we take now to prevent the introduction of the disease. The economic loss to Great Britain in tourism alone approaches the \$400 million dollar mark each week.

"Britain is suffering through travel restrictions, disruption of commerce, and the postponement of national elections because of Foot and Mouth Disease," he said.

**AG. INSPECTIONS
REDOUBLE EFFORTS
TO KEEP FMD OUT OF**



UTAH

The UDAF and USDA are increasing inspections at the numerous control points where FMD could enter the state.

Brand inspectors have undergone renewed training and are stepping up activity at interstate ports of entry. They are working with department of transportation personnel to assure that proper health and travel certificates accompany livestock shipments.

Meat inspectors at livestock processing plants are on the lookout for any outward signs of foot and mouth and other diseases in animals prior to slaughter.

UDAF veterinarians are working with private vets and animal owners around the state to help both small and large livestock owners identify potential health problems.

"We have a three pronged approach to our inspection program," said Dr. Michael Marshall, state veterinarian. "We're on the farm, we're at the processing plants and we're on the road, making sure the established practices that have kept FMD out of the US for 71 years remain in place," he added.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS URGED TO TAKE STEPS TO KEEP FMD OUT

International travelers are urged to not visit farms in Foot and Mouth Disease infected countries or bring or ship home certain food products from these countries.

All foods of animal origin and animal products from FMD infected areas are prohibited from entry into our state. Please follow all import and customs regulations to declare and have all items checked as you enter the state. An agricultural representative will assist you in clearing your carry-on products.

The UDAF's web site (www.ag.state.ut.us) has more information about Foot and Mouth Disease, including a complete list of prohibited foods and international travel tips.

Foot and mouth disease is a foreign threat to U.S. livestock.



Pictured *above* is a hoof of a cow infected with Foot-and-Mouth Disease. A ruptured vesicle with blanching of tissue in the interdigital space.



Pictured *above* is the mouth of a cow infected with Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Ruptured vesicle on the dental pad.